

Scheme, Integrated Handloom Cluster Development etc. being implemented in the handloom sector indirectly encourage self-employment amongst the artisans and the weavers. The details of financial assistance provided to various implementing agencies viz. State Handicrafts Development Corporations/Societies/NGOs etc. for implementation of schemes of Handicrafts Sector and the schemes of the Handlooms Sector in the State of Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years i.e. 2003-04 to 2005-06 is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Amount released for Handicrafts Sector	Amount Released for Handlooms Sector
2003-04	212.04	1784.14
2004-05	248.32	848.21
2005-06	440.96	829.44
TOTAL:	907.32	3461.79

(b) Number of artisans benefited through implementation of above schemes in the Handicrafts Sectors are 20,000 and 2,95,196 weavers in the Handloom sector in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Government introduced some new schemes, for the benefit of artisans and weavers in the country, during the 10th Plan period which include Special Handicrafts Training Project, Work-shed Scheme, Credit Guarantee Scheme and Janshree Bima Yojana in the Handicrafts Sector and Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Health Insurance Scheme and Handloom Mark and Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme in the Handlooms Sector.

Waiving of loans to weavers

†2413. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) by when handloom weavers will be given bank loan at seven per cent interest rate like farmers, as per his prior declaration;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any plan to waive off the weaver's loans; and
 (c) whether handloom weavers are being given credit cards; if so, the State-wise number of such weavers, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A High Level Committee headed by the Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai was constituted by the Ministry of Textiles to evolve a financial package for the handloom weavers. The Committee submitted its recommendations on various aspects, including waiver of overdue loans/ interest and providing the loan @ 7% p.a. A proposal, in this regard has been submitted to Ministry of Finance for their approval.

(c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), in consultation with Government of India and Reserve Bank of India introduced the Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) Scheme in September, 2003 for facilitating hassle-free credit flow from banking system to a wide variety of small borrowers, viz. Self employed persons, Artisans, Handloom weavers, Rickshaw owners, other Micro Entrepreneurs, SHGs, etc.

The progress under the SCC scheme is monitored through a simple format which gives details of number of SCCs issued and credit limits sanctioned. Since the scheme covers a large variety of small borrowers, disaggregated data on different groups of borrowers is not maintained by NABARD. State-wise break-up of the number of small borrowers benefited under the SCC scheme is as follows:

*State-wise number of Swarojgar Credit Cards (SCC) issued
 Cumulatively as on 30 September, 2006 (from inception of the scheme)*

States	Nos. of SCCs issued	Credit Limit Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	73	20.75
Andhra Pradesh	61439	37237.625
Assam	2381	631.85
Bihar	23756	17208.71
Chhattisgarh	13524.00	2849.98

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RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3
Goa	327	392.08
Gujarat	15522	4049.8
Haryana	39357	10442.18
Himachal Pradesh	5028	1717.54
Jharkhand	6536	1570.18
Karnataka	50480	17713.14
Kerala	59504	46488.06
Madhya Pradesh	14765	4765.51
Maharashtra	8601	1618.34
Mizoram	95	47.1
Nagaland	4	1.19
Orissa	30746	7354.49
Punjab	14852	4673.36
Rajasthan	19816	5625.84
Tamil Nadu	20837	9017.23
Tripura	23	6.43
Uttar Pradesh	79505	25120.83
Uttaranchal	6092	1955.18
West Bengal	21876	8708.45
GRAND TOTAL	495139	209215.845

*provisional